



# OWINGS MILLS TIMES

Glyndon, Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown,  
Reisterstown and Smith-Greenspring

Vol. 19, No. 15 Week of Aug. 19, 2004

www.owingsmillstimes.com

Newsstand price 50 cents

## COMMUNITY

### Pet psychic seeks to deepen relationship with pets

BY LISA ROSATO

Seeing deep emotions in animals is what continues to amaze Terri Diener, and her clients.

Diener, of Pikesville, is an animal communication specialist. She says her business, Petspeak, provides a communication link between owners and their animals through the use of telepathic connections.

Diener takes her skill very seriously because it can be very healing for the animal and the person, she said.

Arlene Seidman, of Baltimore, said Diener practically saved the life of her maltese, Rocky.

Seidman's husband died in January, but when he fell ill, so did the couple's long-time, silky-coated companion Rocky.

"He couldn't walk, he wouldn't eat," said Seidman. "I didn't know what to do with him. I was praying for someone to help me."

When her dog sitter recommended Diener's services, Seidman decided she had nothing to lose. She sought out Diener to communicate with Rocky.

Diener said Rocky told her he felt like he was being pulled in two different directions.

"He was trying to be what each owner thought he should be," Diener said.

Diener advised Seidman to explain to Rocky that even though her husband was dying, he was safe.

"She told me how to talk to him and let him know he wasn't going to be alone," Seidman said.

In less than a week, Rocky was feeling better. "It was my Rocky again," Seidman said.

Nancy Fox, of Linthicum, is another satisfied customer. When one of Fox's cats, Sonny, started knocking dishes and cups over near the sink and breaking them, the first thing she did was call Diener.

"Sonny told Terri he was upset because he heard us talking about getting a new puppy," Fox said. "He wanted to have a place to get away from the puppy."

The next day, Fox went out and bought a cat condo, a hide-a-way nook, for Sonny. No more broken dishes since then.

"She's just been so helpful with my cats," Fox said. "I never realized how tuned in our animals are."

Diener's business is similar to the popular cable television show Pet Psychic, on which Sonya Fitzpatrick reads pets' thoughts. Like Fitzpatrick, Diener says she tunes into the minds of



Terri Diener, a pet psychic, cuddles one of her cats in her Pikesville home. Diener says she provides a communication link between pet owners and their animals through the use of telepathy.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHERRY DIBARI

pets, but in the greater Baltimore area.

Diener conducts half-hour, \$45 communication sessions either over the phone or in person. For the phone sessions, all she needs is a picture of the pet. Since she started this work almost 10 years ago she's chatted with hundreds of animals.

Diener is fully aware that with an unconventional field such as her's, there are bound to be skeptics.

"I often know when people call and are testing me," she said. "I don't even play. I'm not on a soapbox to convince the skeptics. I don't even engage in the fight."

She says the point of her work is to deepen an owner's relationship with their pets.

She said she has helped find lost animals. She's helped sick animals explain their pain.

"Some just want to tell their story," she said.

Hamsters thoughts, she said, are a "study in simplicity".

Diener believes anyone can communicate with their pets.

"I really think it's something we all have in us," Diener said. "As cave people we had to communicate with more than grunts. Once we developed speech, telepathic communication went on the back burner."

So, how did Diener develop her ability to talk to animals?

She decided to re-ignite her ancient abilities after an animal communicator helped her solve her pet problem.

In 1995 her cat at the time, Victor, was not using his litter box. Her holistic vet suggested the cat talk to an animal communicator.

"The communicator asked me if I

could my hair," Diener said. "The cat was allergic to the hair dye and it was making him sick. I was sitting on the other end of the phone thinking, 'How do you know this?' I said to her, 'I don't know what you do but I want it.'"

Later that year, Diener attended workshops to learn how to get in touch with her telepathic capabilities. A former staff trainer for the Depart-

ment of Juvenile Justice, Diener started practicing on friends' pets and eventually word spread as her skills strengthened.

"The wonderful thing about this work is it keeps me really humble," she said. "Animals have a sense of pristine intelligence and awareness. We can fool other people, but not animals."

"I'm helping folks understand why certain things happen," she said. Animals' "behavior makes total sense to them. It's not about just being mean."

Diener has founded an association, the Animal Kinship Alliance, to promote education and respect among animals and people.

The First Annual Kindred Spirits Day, a fundraiser for the charitable organization, will be held Oct. 10 from noon to 4 p.m. at HorseNet Horse Rescue Farm in New Windsor in Carroll County.

"People tend to anthropomorphize their pets," Diener said. "They're not little people with fur. It's about understanding who animals really are."

Contact Terri Diener at [terri@petspeak.com](mailto:terri@petspeak.com).

E-mail Lisa Rosato at [lrosato@patuxent.com](mailto:lrosato@patuxent.com).

# Petspeak

## IN THE NEWS